GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3647
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001
SETTING UP OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BANK
ANNA SAHEB M.K. PATIL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set-up a National Agricultural Marketing Bank and `mega` markets in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof location-wise;

(c) whether the Government have since received the report of the expert committee set up to suggest ways to improve agricultural marketing;

(d) if so, the main recommendations thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a)&(b): There is no proposal to set up a National Agricultural Marketing Bank and `mega` markets in the country.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): Major recommendations of the Expert Committee are as follows:

(i) Government need to examine existing legal framework governing the institution of regulated markets and remove all such restrictive provision which inhibit growth of a competitive marketing structure in the country.

(ii) Government need to promote direct marketing of agricultural produce by the farmers to maximize their share in the price.

(iii) More commodities should be added to the list of commodities allowed for forward and futures trading to reduce price risk and to facilitate integration of domestic market with international markets.

(iv) Government should promote development of national warehousing receipt system for agricultural commodities to induce increased flow of funds to agriculture sector and to increase price risk management.

(v) Credit policy of the Government should support pledge financing by treating it as priority sector lending to agriculture with the facility of concessional re-finance.

(vi) Government need to promote marketing extension, training and research and use of information technology in agricultural sector to advise the farmers on (a) product planning, (b) market information (c) securing markets, (d) alternate/direct marketing, (e) improved marketing services including grading and packaging, and advantage of group marketing.

(e): With a view to examine the recommendations made by the Expert Committeeand to suggest measures to be taken for implementing them, an Inter-Ministerial Task Force has been constituted by the Government.